

**CLAIMS**

What is claimed is:

- 5 1. A method for providing prerequisite checking in a system for creating compilations from a plurality of content objects stored in a data repository, each content object comprising a plurality of content entities, some of the content entities being prerequisites to others of the content entities, comprising the steps of:  
Upon addition or removal a content entity to the compilation, determining if the content  
10 entity has any prerequisite content entities, and if so, adding or removing the prerequisite content entity.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein one or more of the prerequisites are conditional.
- 15 3. The method of claim 1, wherein the conditions for applying a prerequisite are defined in one or more rules.
4. The method of claim 3, in the case of more than one rules pertaining to the same prerequisite, further comprising the step of reducing the rule set if possible into a smaller set of  
20 rules.
5. The method of claim 3, further comprising the step of rewriting any negative rules as positive rules.

6. A program storage device readable by a machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform method steps for providing prerequisite checking in a system for creating compilations from a plurality of content objects stored in a data repository, each content object comprising a plurality of content entities, some of the content entities being prerequisites to others of the content entities, comprising the steps of:

Upon addition or removal a content entity to the compilation, determining if the content entity has any prerequisite content entities, and if so, adding or removing the prerequisite content entity.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein one or more of the prerequisites are conditional.

8. The method of claim 6, wherein the conditions for applying a prerequisite are defined in one or more rules.

9. The method of claim 8, in the case of more than one rules pertaining to the same prerequisite, further comprising the step of reducing the rule set if possible into a smaller set of rules.

10. The method of claim 8, further comprising the step of rewriting any negative rules as positive rules.

11. A system for providing prerequisite checking in a system for creating compilations from a plurality of content objects stored in a data repository, each content object comprising a plurality of content entities, some of the content entities being prerequisites to others of the content entities, comprising:

Means for determining, upon addition or removal a content entity to the compilation, if the content entity has any prerequisite content entities, and if so, adding or removing the prerequisite content entity.

12. The system of claim 11, wherein one or more of the prerequisites are conditional.

13. The system of claim 11, wherein the conditions for applying a prerequisite are defined in one or more rules.

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14. The system of claim 13, further comprising means for reducing the rule set if possible into a smaller set of rules in the case of more than one rules pertaining to the same prerequisite.

15. The system of claim 13, further comprising means for rewriting any negative rules as  
10 positive rules.